

Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

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DRC-01 /129 W

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R 291334Z MAR 74

FM AMCONSUL MUNICH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4936

AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO USMISSION BERLIN

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUESSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, GW

SUBJECT: STRAUSS AGAIN PROPOSES EXPANDING CSU NATIONWIDE

1. ARTICLE BY WILFRIED SCHARNAGL IN MARCH 30 BAYERNKURIER
RERAISING SUGGESTION THAT CSU ESTABLISH ITSELF NATIONWIDE APPEARS
TO HAVE AROUSED MORE INTEREST ELSEWHERE THAN IN MUNICH, WHICH
MAY BY NOW RECOGNIZE THIS AS SOMETHING FRANZ JOSEF STRAUSS BRINGS
UP PERIODICALLY FOR VARIOUS TACTICAL PURPOSES.

2. CSU LANDTAG DEPUTIES IN COMMENTS TO US MARCH 28 AND CSU
BUNDESTAG FRAKTION CHAIRMAN STUECKLEN ON TV THAT EVENING ALL
EMPHASIZED THAT SUGGESTION WAS NOT OF IMMEDIATE IMPORT AND WAS
MADE IN ORDER TO BE CONSIDERED PHILOSOPHICALLY NOW IN EVENT
FUTURE POLITICAL SITUATION MIGHT MAKE IT DESIRABLE. THEY ALSO
MADE CLEAR FDP WAS TARGET OF EXERCISE. BAYERNKURIER, IN THIS
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CONNECTION, MADE POINT THAT ONLY IN 1957 DID CDU/CSU WIN

ABSOLUTE MAJORITY IN BUNDESTAG ELECTIONS, AND BOTH IT AND STUECKLEN HAMMERED AT THEME FRG POLITICS ARE CURENTLY DISTORTED BECAUSE FDP IS SO CLOSELY WED TO SPD.

3. STRAUSS MUST INDEED FREQUENTLY BE TEMPTED BY IDEA OF HEADING NATIONWIDE PARTY, PARTICULARLY NOW WHEN CSU/CSU IS IN OPPOSITION AND HIS FIELD OF ACTION IS THEREFORE LIMITED. HOWEVER, IT SEEMS CLEAR HE IS ALSO WELL AWARE OF DISADVANTAGES INVOLVED. HIS PREVIOUS SUGGESTIONS OF EXPANDING CSU TO OTHER LAENDER WERE PRIMARILY TACTICAL AND AIMED AT CDU, WITH VIEW TOWARDS INCREASING HIS WEIGHT IN UNION. PRESENT EFFORT APPEARS EQUALLY TACTICAL, BUT AS CSU OFFICIALS HAVE INDICATED, AIMED AT FDP RATHER THAN CDU. OBJECTIVE IS PROBABLY TWOFOLD; TO TRY PRY FDP LOOSE FROM ITS ALLIANCE WITH SPD, ESPECIALLY FOR 1976, AND MEANWHILE TO TRY TO BLUR IMAGE OF FDP AS SEPARATE, INDEPENDENT PARTY. HAVING NOTED FDP SUCCESSES IN RECENT LOCAL ELECTIONS, CSU IS SEEKING TO HAVE FDP SO CLOSELY IDENTIFIED WITH SPD THAT IT TOO WILL PAY PRICE OF VOTERS' DISCONTENT WITH BONN GOVERNMENT.

4. IT IS WORTH NOTING THAT CSU LANDTAG DEPUTIES WERE FAR MORE INTERESTED IN TALKING ABOUT PETZET CASE AND ENTHUSIASTICALLY APPLAUDED CULTURE MINISTER MAIER, WHOM THEY CONSIDER VICTOR OF AFFAIR, AT HIS ENTRANCE (MUNICH A-41, AND A-44). VALDES

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